



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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NEWS RELEASE – BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS TRACED TO SOUTH DAKOTA COW FEEDLOT

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Bovine tuberculosis (TB) has been traced to a cull cow feedlot in southeastern South Dakota. In August, 2006, a cow was identified with lesions suspicious of TB during routine slaughter surveillance at a Wisconsin plant. At that time, samples were submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, IA, and were initially classified as negative for the disease, based on an early screening test. However, further testing, including culture of the *Mycobacterium bovis* bacteria, confirmed that the animal had been infected with bovine TB.

The premise containing the feedlot has been placed under quarantine. An investigation has been initiated by animal health officials. Dr. Sam Holland, State Veterinarian, says that animal identification, including a back tag and brucellosis vaccination tag, were used to trace the animal from the slaughter plant, through a South Dakota market, to the feedlot. Fortunately the feedlot markets fed cattle to slaughter so exposure from the feedlot is minimal.

The focus now will be in tracing and attempting to determine the source of the disease prior to the cow's entry to the feedlot.

South Dakota has been involved in TB eradication programs since 1912, with the last known case detected in 1971. Pasteurization of milk and meat inspection programs provide for food safety from the disease. It is important for South Dakota to maintain its TB Free state status as it allows producers to market animals intrastate, interstate, and internationally without burdensome testing requirements.

Bovine TB is a respiratory disease of cattle. It is a chronic, slowly progressive disease that does not spread easily. Infected animals may be capable of transmitting an infection to other animals even if they appear healthy. In a cooperative eradication campaign by industry and animal health officials, the US has nearly eliminated bovine TB.

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